

Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Ishiyama. Claim 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Ishiyama in view of Mizoguchi. Claims 1-3 and 10-12 were rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by Mano. Claims 3-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Mano.

As shown above, the independent claims have been amended to recite the present invention more clearly. Applicant submits that amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 10 are patentable over the prior art for at least the following reasons.

Amended Claim 1 recites, inter alia, first detection means for detecting the angle of the image pickup direction and for determining whether the detected angle equals a predetermined angle, and storage means for storing an image signal of one or more subjects when the predetermined angle is detected by said first detection means. Amended Claim 10 is a method claim which recites substantially similar features.

Amended Claim 7 recites, inter alia, image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of the image pickup means between a direction for picking up an image of the subject laid on a mount table and another direction. Detection means detects the image pickup direction of the image pickup means and storage means stores

the image signal output by the image pickup means when the image pickup direction detected by the detecting means is the direction for picking up the subject on the mount table.

As a result of the claimed structure and steps, during the time that the image pickup is in motion, that is, when the image pickup direction is changing, since the image of the subject is stored, a still image can be output to prevent the display of a disordered image during the movement of the image pickup.

As understood by Applicant, Ishiyama shows an image pickup means having a photo-interrupter and a movable member whose movable range is regulated by a pin, a direction detection part that detects the direction of image pickup means and an image memory that stores pixel data. An image inversion signal is provided when the direction detecting part detects the image pickup means is directed to a certain direction.

In Ishiyama, image memory 27 stores and outputs image signals at all times. That is, it is a feature of Ishiyama that an image is inverted and displayed so that the image picked up at an original image pickup mode will not be upside-down

Applicant fails to find in Ishiyama, however, any teaching or suggestion of the storage means storing an image of one or more subjects when detecting means detects that the image pickup part is directed to a predetermined angle

(Claims 1 and 10) or when it is detected that the image pickup direction of the image pickup means is the direction for picking up the subject on the mount table (Claim 7). Nor would the structure disclosed in Ishiyama result in the advantages engendered by the recited structure (or steps) recited in the amended independent claims discussed above. Accordingly, amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 10 are believed to distinguish patentably over Ishiyama.

Mano, as understood by Applicant, shows a system including a camera, a storage device that stores a movie image signal output from a camera, and which outputs the signal as a still image signal, and a system controller for outputting, as a still image signal, an image that a camera captures at the moment a write-in signal to a storage device is transmitted.

In Mano, while the video-taking range of the camera is changing, a still image is displayed that prevents the display of a disordered image in the monitor. The storage device stores image signals at all times, and outputs, as a still image signal, the image caught by the camera at the moment of receiving a write-in signal, while a system controller outputs a signal which controls the camera controller.

However, Applicant fails to find, in Mano, any teaching or suggestion of the storage means storing an image of one or more subjects when detecting means detects that the

image pickup part is directed to a predetermined angle (Claims 1 and 10) or when it is detected that the image pickup direction of the image pickup means is the direction for picking up the subject on the mount table (Claim 7). Accordingly, the amended independent claims are believed clearly patentable over Mano.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 758-2400. All

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Respectfully submitted,

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